

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 AGR-20 TRSE-00 EB-11 RSR-01

/150 W

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R 200955Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4947

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGK 11168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TH, CB.

SUBJECT: THANOM ON CAMBODIA

1. PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTKACHORN HELD A PRESS
CONFERENCE JULY 18.HE COMMENTS PERTINENT TO
CAMBODIA FOLLOW.

2. "I HAVE ASSERTED AT PRESS CONFERENCES MANY, MANY TIMES
ALREADY THAT WE WILL NOT SEND COMBAT TROOPS TO
FIGHT IN CAMBODIAN. WE ARE HELPING IT IN OTHER WAYS.
SUCH AS HELPING TRAIN ITS TROOPS TO POSSESS GREATER
EFFICIENCY IN FIGHTING AND GIVING IT ECONOMIC
AID. CAMBODIA IS SUFFEREING FROM AN ACUTE SHORTAGE
OF RICE AND IT WANTS TO BUY RICE FROM US WHICH WE
ARE ENDEAVORING TO SELL TO IT TO THE GREATEST
EXTENT WE CAN WE ARE ALSO GIVING IT AID IN THE FORM OF
MEDICINES IT NEEDS AHDLY AND WE GIVE IT ADVICE ON
SOME SUBJECTS IT CONSULTS US ON. WE ARE ENDEAVORING
TO GOVER IT AID TO THE UTMOST OF OUR ABILITY BUT WE HAVE
INFORMED IT ALREADY THAT WE WILL NOT SEND COMBAT FORCES
TO HELP IT FIGHT"

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3. THANOM WAS THEN ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD EXTEND RECOGNITION TO PRINCE SIHANOUK SHOULD HE REGAIN POWER IN CAMBODIA. THANOM REPLIED "THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUED A STATMENT EXPLAINING TO REPORTERS FAIRLY RECENTLY THAT REGARDLESS WHAT GOVERNMENT IS IN POWER IN ANY COUNTRY SO LONG AS IT IS THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT WE WILL CONTACT IT."

4. A REPORTER THEN ASKED THANOMS VIEW ON SIHANOUK STATMENT THAT THE THAI HAD SENT OVER 20,000 TROOPS INTO CAMBODIA"IT IS HIS INTENTION TO SHOW THE WHOLE WORLD THAT THAILANDHAS ACTED WRONGLY. BUT WE ASSERT THAT WE HAVE NOT SENT ANY TROOPS INTO THAT COUNTRY. I FEEL THAT SIHANOUK HAS NO GOOD INTENTIONS TOWARD THAILAND, EVEN DATING BACK TO THE TIME WHEN HE WAS KING. IT IS A FACT THAT WE GAVE CONSIDERABLE AID TO CAMBODIA EVEN IN THE PAST WHEN SIHANOUK WAS IN POWER. BUT HE CHANGED HIS MIND CONSTANTLY, SEVERAL TIMES IN THE SAME DAY. NOW HOWEVER, THAT HE IS GROWING OLD HIS VIEWS MIGHT BE TONED DOWN TO SOME EXTENT".
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30 JUN 2005

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